

Speaker: Stephen Sherwin
Date: 1st April 2012
Reading: Jonah 2v1-3v10

God was moving in the life of Jonah.

“[Word of God quick and powerful](#)”, word of God able to accomplish salvation.

Jonah was like you and I and God spoke to Jonah.

Jonah had decided to go against God's way to go his way. Isn't that like us?

Everybody is the same, all descended from Adam, all sinners, all naturally speaking opposed to what God wants. Going against God is called sin and we are sinners.

“[The Lord looks on the heart](#)” (1 Sam 16:7).

“[All gone aside, all unprofitable, none do good, no not one](#)” (Rom 3:12)

God could have just rejected Jonah and left him to go astray. God is not like that, He has an interest in each one.

God knows us and God loves us. God would not have us to perish.

There is judgment coming on world, must be ready to meet God. Amos would say “[Prepare to meet thy God](#)” (Amos 4:12). Have you?

Some think they will wait till there come before God.

God has put on record how to be saved.

There is a way of escape, no matter how bad our sin is we can have peace all is settled between us and God.

God hates sin yet God would not give up on Jonah.

Many give up on God but he doesn't give up on them.

Jonah went down... to Joppa, ... into ship,...into bottom of ship, into sea,.... into belly of fish.

God made the fish in the first place. “[In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth](#)” (Gen 1:1). All is under His bidding and power.

How it happened we don't know but God was at work.

God's finger was on Jonah's life whether he wanted it or not.

The storm was such that the sailors realised something extra ordinary was taking place. Out of all the gods the sailors worshipped none could help them.

People have different things in life they rely on. Unless they rely on God they will find they have no support.

What are you relying on tonight?

Everything went over the side which may seem a shame. The Bible says our soul is worth more “[What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul](#)” (Mark 8:36)

Do you value your soul?

Good to look after body but terrible to neglect the soul.

In all this Jonah was asleep. Many go through life as though they are asleep.

Don't have to do anything special to get right with God. Just need to accept He died for you and you need His forgiveness. “[Whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life](#)” (John 3:16).

When Jonah was saved by the big fish, physically the sailors on board turned from their own gods and turned to God.

A woman came to Jesus as her daughter was sick. She couldn't accept because of who she was but because of mercy in Jesus. She accepted she was only a Gentile dog.

Has God spoken to you in your life? When God speaks, why not listen?

Men try to say God is not a God of love when He doesn't stop bad things.

Life is very brief “[Life just like a vapour](#)” (James 4:14).

The masses have come and gone and there is no remembrance of them.

Our lives are known to God and are important to God.

God is longsuffering and merciful “[Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance](#)” (2 Peter 3:9) but on the other hand “[unless you repent you will all likewise perish](#)” (Luke 13:3,5)

How long have you got left? How long has God been showing mercy to you?

“[If ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts](#)” (Heb 3:15)

You may know God will judge sin one day yet still put it off.

2 Cor 6:2

“[Boast not thyself of tomorrow](#)” (Prov 27:1). Many are in hell placing store on tomorrow.

Humanly speaking there was no hope for Jonah.

“[dead come forth out of graves, sea give up dead](#)” (Rev 20:13)

Jonah is not dead for God would have dealings with him.

Whilst there is life there is hope.

Jonah discovered “[Salvation is of the Lord](#)” (Jonah 2:9).

He comes to an end of himself, he recognised that though he had disobeyed salvation could only come from God.

“[Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world](#)” (1 John 4:14)

Have you realised there is nothing you can do? You cannot save yourself.

Paul acknowledged he was “[chief of sinners](#)” (1 Tim 1:15). God could save him and He can save you.

Jonah preached a judgment to come. The people found out God is merciful and longsuffering.

God can forgive all sin on the basis of Calvary but only on this basis (Acts 4:12).